

That is what I call weird music.

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Do you know Solefald or Arcturus? Are you familiar with their early works? Both bands are famous for avant-garde music with a lot of extreme tendencies in the sense that the listener is asking him/herself kind of drugs the musicians have taken while composing the music. *Aberrant Vascular* is not reaching the level of the former mentioned bands, yet their style is in my humble opinion unique in the way they combine elements of the opera scene, avant-garde metal and electronic elements together. Yet I ask myself if there is some subliminal parodist tendency in the band's intention in respect to the amount and extend in which influences from non-metal areas have been incorporated into their music. The small niche they have chosen to play in is fascinating no doubt, yet the band might have a hard time to keep this compositional level with the same amount of catchiness and weirdness in the long run; this demo is not even consistent in its design.

An important role play the vocals in the music of *Aberrant Vascular*, with their range from opera-like ones to growls and screams. Especially the opera-vocals are partly used as a counterpoint to the rest of the music as their tempo is slower than the rest of the music, hence more attention is being drawn towards them, but they sounds somehow odd simply because the ear is not common with these contradicting elements in the music. It should be noted that the singers know at least what they are doing, whereby the songs do not suffer from a lack of skill which would decrease the entire quality a good deal. Even though the vocals play an important in the music, they are not permanently existent and the singer has not a tendency to communicate, but gives room to the instruments instead.

Their part is to lay the basis of the songs and the concept which consist to a great deal of variation in song-writing and a potpourri of elements from various genres and influences. Ranging from avant-garde, to Black Metal, to electronic music and to classical, the songs are peppered with little pieces, riffs and sound-samples and none of them is unimportant or obsolete. There is never reached the point in which the songs are overloaded or the avant-garde tendency is stretched too far, as one might think of by the extent in which ideas have found their way in to the composition of the songs. Not surprisingly is the lack of a red-line in the tracks and like a rollercoaster-trip the listener has to go through a lot of different impressions, styles and atmospheres over the total length of each one. The differentiating factors between *Aberrant Vascular* and bands like Arcturus or Solefald is that the former is drifting away in even stranger and weirder regions than the latter two, whose releases are extreme in their own sense in their particular genre, yet in a way staying on the safe side without risking too much.

If you like the band depends on the musical background that you have and the genre you generally prefer. Black Metal purists will hardly like this record and even Power Metal junkies are not likely to listen to this music extensively, yet those who favour bands of the avant-garde genre like those two mentioned above (just to name some, there could be cited even more), will enjoy the compositions of *Aberrant Vascular*. Also in the long run? Hard to say. Sometimes I want the music to become even wilder and freakier with more extreme switches in tempi and in the instrumentation. In a way the opera vocals are neat und unique, but also loaded with a lot of pathos, which does not work always and is to some extent a little

bit out of place. The focus on the voice can also be a little bit criticized, especially in respect in which way samples are used. In contrast to the guitars or the drums, they have the function to support the vocals and nothing more; an aspect I do like that much. Despite this, the release Pelopia of <i>Aberrant Vascular</i> is good and enjoyable, yet not for everyone. It really depends on mood, preferences and background if the band is able to fascinate the listener. Recommended to open minded persons.

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